

## Loudoun County, Virginia

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**Board of Supervisors** 

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February 27, 2006

The Honorable Joe T. May General Assemble Building, Room 514 Capitol Square, P.O. Box 406 Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Delegate May,

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I want to thank you for your continuing leadership on the location and installation of the proposed Pleasant View – Hamilton 230kVa transmission line.

In response to your request at the February 21, 2006 Board of Supervisors' business meeting, the County will ask that the State Corporation Commission proceedings be continued until completion of the proposed JLARC study concerning underground and overhead transmission lines.

In addition, the Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that you pursue appropriate direction to the State Corporation Commission from the General Assembly to suspend further action on pending power line applications in anticipation of the JLARC study, with such reasonable exceptions as the General Assembly may deem appropriate. Action by the General Assembly in this regard would appear to be the most effective and direct way to express your intentions with respect to the JLARC study.

The Board also greatly appreciates your feedback on the cost estimates for underground installation of the proposed line. The County's expert has substantial experience in the installation of XLPE cable and has developed a cost estimate of roughly \$4.7 million per mile for this type of line. This contrasts with Dominion Virginia Power's estimate of \$8.3 million per mile for HPPF cable and is generally comparable to DVP's estimate for XLPE cable. The County's proposed route largely follows your recommendations, although our expert has deviated somewhat to shorten the overall distance of the line and avoid the Town of Hamilton and the difficulties associated with construction through the built up areas in and around Hamilton. The shorter distance saves substantial cost.

Our cost expert has provided an overall cost estimate of \$74 million for underground installation of the preferred DVP route. This is simply a benchmark and the County's proposed route would result inconsiderably lower costs. His prefiled testimony makes this clear, and the estimate for the DVP route is best considered as a projected cost of \$4.7 million per mile.

We welcome your comments and questions regarding the cost estimates. Please let the County Attorney or our special counsel have any information that you believe may be useful in this regard.

Again, we applaud your efforts and look for your continued leadership in making the outcome of this issue the best for all citizens of Loudoun and the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Scott K. York Chairman

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors